CONNECT ND

Key items & events

Introducing the e-bulletin
Welcome to the first issue of the ConnectND Newsletter (e-bulletin). Although we plan to produce this newsletter on a monthly basis using the format listed above, this document is not intended to replace the ConnectND Web site in timeliness or fullness of content. Thank you for your interest in and support of this project.

ERP Implementation Principles
Over the first few months of project implementation, confusion has arisen over the interpretation of the *guiding principles* contained in the ERP Implementation Guidelines approved by the Chancellor's Cabinet. A document has been developed to understand how and why those of us on the project interpret the principles the way we do.

October ConnectND IVN updates schedule
- Thursday, Oct. 3 (9-9:50 a.m.)
- Thursday, Oct. 17 (8-8:50 a.m.)
- Thursday, Oct. 31 (9-9:50 a.m)

These sessions are web-streamed (recorded live) and broadcast real-time via the ConnectND Website. Everyone is invited to attend the IVN update sessions. Specific locations are indicated on the calendar.

Can't make IVN meeting dates?— an alternative
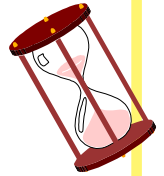The IVN sessions are captured and recorded through webstreaming. Use the video archive to view a missed session at a later date.

————Timeline————

What is the current status of the ConnectND project?
In their September 29, 2002, report, the Project Oversight team reported that:
- The overall project is on time and on budget;
- Although most of the open issues have been resolved, there are open issues that are overdue in the Human Resources system. With the addition of more resources from MAXIMUS, we expect to see closure soon;
- Project Deliverables are on-track; and
- There are no scope issues or risks impeding the project at this time.

How is ConnectND being implemented?
Under the leadership of a State Executive Steering Committee (co-chaired by Donna Thigpen, President, Bismarck State College and Rod Backman, Director, Office of Management and Budget) and with the help of our implementation partner, *MAXIMUS*, the project is being implemented using a five-phased approach:
1. Initiation – Complete
2. Design – Through 12/3/02
3. Development – Through 3/15/03
4. Migration – 10/7/02/02 to 5/15/03
5. Post Production – 10/7/02 to 8/29/03

When will ConnectND be implemented?
Implementation will begin at the Mayville State University and Valley City State University pilot sites within the next week. The estimated timeline for those two institutions is as follows:

Campus Community Planning Live – October 7, 2002
Campus Portal Live – October 7, 2002
Recruiting Live – October 7, 2002
Admissions Live – October 7, 2002
Other Student Administration Systems Live – April 2003
Financial System Live – April 2003
Human Resource System Live – April 2003

In addition, the Office of Management and Budget, the state's pilot site, is also scheduled to begin running certain systems by April 2003. The entire statewide implementation for the remaining agencies and institutions is scheduled to be complete by the third quarter of 2004.

Has end-user training been scheduled?
End-user training for Mayville State University and Valley City State University pilot sites as related to Campus Community, Campus Portal, Recruiting, and Admissions is underway. Additional end-user training will continue to be scheduled using a just-in-time approach.

Words & acronyms

ASP— Application Service Provider provides outsourcing support. Applications are run, maintained, or managed by a third party (i.e., MAXIMUS Data Center). In addition to implementation services, MAXIMUS will also be providing North Dakota with ASP support services.

ERP— "Enterprise Resource Planning" System or "Enterprise Resource Package." Essentially, it means an administrative software system that covers the entire enterprise – from students to employees to financial management. While our current administrative systems (commonly known as SAMIS or CICS) were developed long before "ERP" was even thought of, they are essentially our ERP today.

MAXIMUS— Founded in 1975, serves as the implementation partner on the Connect North Dakota Project, and will be responsible for developing an implementation and deployment plan that addresses the major business areas, key agency and campus participants and critical project completion dates.

PeopleSoft— Founded in the mid-1980s, this company builds applications on a client-server platform instead of using the traditional mainframe. This product should provide both the state and the university system with the ability to operate within a real-time environment on a system-wide basis.

About ConnectND

What is ConnectND?
The CONNECT ND project is the implementation of *PeopleSoft's* ERP system that will replace North Dakota's current administrative computer systems. The ERP system will serve as the administrative systems for the entire enterprise – from students to employees to financial management.

Who is involved in ConnectND?
All of North Dakota State Government, including the North Dakota University System, is involved this project.

How is the ConnectND project organized?
The project has been organized by module (functional area) into three state groups (Financial, Human Resources Management System, and Technical) and four higher education groups (Financial, Human Resources Management System, Student Administration, and Technical).

ConnectND to operate using two Data Centers
Throughout the pilot site implementation phase, MAXIMUS' Data Center will serve as an ASP for the ConnectND project. Once fully implemented, ConnectND two data centers will serve the project. ITD will operate the financial system data center and the NDUS will operate the Student Administration system data center. The state and NDUS technical groups are currently working to determine which location will house the Human Resources Management System.

Sessions
At the recommendation of the NDUS Student Administration Project Team, the Executive Steering Committee has approved a core set of sessions (course length) for fall, spring, and summer. Although, institutions may have as many sessions as they choose, each institution will have to work with the project team to setup sessions on their campuses that fall outside of these parameters. The initial setup will be a manual process, however, once complete, the sessions will become part of the system setup.

Payroll schedule
The NDUS Executive Steering Committee supported the payroll schedule modification adopted by the ConnectND project. However, the committee asked the team to reduce the lag period to the shortest period possible, while still producing accurate paychecks. The committee also directed the team to work with state government on a common solution.

Under the proposed schedule, campuses would move to a semi-monthly payroll schedule with paychecks issued on a lag basis. Any change will be made on July 1, 2003 at MaSU and VCSC, the two pilot campuses. The other campuses will make the transition on July 1, 2004. The Chancellor's Cabinet discussed the proposal and although it took no formal action the President's asked that information on the proposal be widely distributed on each campus.

Compensation Plan/Supplemental plan
On September 25, 2002, the NDUS Chancellor's Cabinet approved the Supplemental Compensation Plan approved by the ConnectND Steering Committee. The compensation plan was approved on Aug. 2, 2002.

Links mentioned

- **Calendar:** www.nodak.edu/connectnd/index.php?module=PostCalendar

- **Interpretation og guiding principles:** www.nodak.edu/connectnd/repository/initiation/interpretation.pdf

- **NDUS Compensation plan:** www.nodak.edu/connectnd/repository/initiation/NdusCompPlan.pdf
- **Supplemental plan:** www.nodak.edu/connectnd/repository/initiation/NdusSupplPlan.pdf

- **Guiding principles:** www.nodak.edu/connectnd/repository/initiation/ERPImpGuide-final.pdf

- **Sessions:** http://www.ndsu.nodak.edu/connectnd/repository/development/CalendarEscalation.pdf

- **Video archive:** www.ndsu.nodak.edu/connectnd modules.php?op=modload&name=Downloads&file=index

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